

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Im, C. Andrew on August 7, 2008.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 15, please replace the subject matter in the claim with the following:

15. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions, which when executed performs the steps of:

determining a maximum value and a minimum value among correction values (b, g, r) of respective color components obtained for each pixel by using said correction function, calculating differences (Δb , Δg , Δr) between the respective correction values of the respective color components and said minimum value, and calculating a difference (DR) between said maximum value and said minimum value;

dividing said calculated differences (Δb , Δg , Δr) between the respective correction values of the respective color components and said minimum value by said calculated difference (DR) between said maximum value and said minimum value, thereby to obtain color ratios (Cb, Cg, Cr) for the respective color components;

determining, as an inappropriate pixel, any pixel having a correction value overflowing from a predetermined maximum output gradation value and setting said

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overflowing correction value to said predetermined maximum output gradation value, and determining, as an inappropriate pixel, any pixel having a correction value underflowing from a predetermined minimum output gradation value and setting said underflowing correction value to said predetermined minimum output gradation value; and

controlling color balance adjustment so as to cause the correction values of said inappropriate pixel to agree with said respective color ratio thereof.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. Claims 11-20 (now renumbered 1-10 for issue) are allowed over the prior art of record.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In addition to the teachings of claims 11-16, as a whole, closest art of record failed to teach or suggest among other thing,

"dividing said calculated differences (Δb , Δg , Δ) between the respective correction values of the respective color components and said minimum value by said calculated difference (DR) between said maximum value and said minimum value, thereby to obtain color ratios (Cb, Cg, Cr) for the respective color components."

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AKLILU k. WOLDEMARIAM whose telephone number is (571)270-3247. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samir Ahmed can be reached on 571-272-7413. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Samir Ahmed,
Examiner
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08/07/2008

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2624